

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English

Intensification of Inter-gender Domination by Intra-gender Exploitation in
Margaret Atwood's novel *The Handmaid's Tale*

A Thesis Submitted to
The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for
Master of Philosophy in English

By
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Tribhuvan University
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Letter of Recommendation

Yuba Raj Gaire has completed his dissertation entitled "Intensification of Inter-gender Domination by Intra-gender Exploitation in Margaret Atwood's novel *The Handmaid's Tale*" under my supervision. He carried out his research from March 2013 to January 2014 and completed it successfully. I hereby recommend his dissertation be submitted for the final *Viva Voce* in Central Department of English.

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Letter of Approval

This dissertation entitled “Intensification of Inter-gender Domination by Intra-gender Exploitation in Margaret Atwood’s novel *The Handmaid’s Tale*” to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Yuba Raj Gaire, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

This thesis studies Margaret Atwood's novel *The Handmaid's Tale* in order to find out the real causes behind the discrimination of women in patriarchal society especially in Gilead. For this, the researcher makes study on how the intra-gender domination intensifies the inter-gender domination by applying the feminism as a research methodology. The patriarchy confines women to socially institutionalized motherhood as childbearing machines. The women's deprivation of female sexuality is because of the experience of sexual objectification within the institution of heterosexuality in a male dominated society. In Gilead, women, as the Handmaids, are forced by the Aunts to take the maternal roles to reproduce babies. The patriarchy assumes that inter-gender domination persists as long as there is intra-gender domination. Thus, the females living in patriarchy should try to minimize the intra-gender domination in order to wipe out the inter-gender domination.

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